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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4480  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY  
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY  
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY  
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY  
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY  
RHMFIUU/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY  
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 7292  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 0598  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 3375  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1151  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 9518  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1255  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION Q IRAQ - TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: Thursday morning's Mainichi gave top play to a plan by the USG and GOJ to conclude an accord concerning intelligence sharing for the joint operation of missile defense (MD) systems.

[¶1](#). "GSDF Withdrawal from Iraq: Reviewing the Experience" The liberal Asahi editorialized (7/20): "Japan's Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF) troops have arrived in Kuwait after leaving Samawah. About 600 GSDF personnel will soon return home to Japan, bringing an end to their two-and-a-half-year humanitarian and reconstruction mission. What was the meaning of sending the GSDF to a country still in a state of war? Did the GSDF adequately fulfill its role? On the occasion of their withdrawal, it is necessary to review the roles and activities these troops played in Iraq and use this review for the basis of future discussions. More than anything else, we are glad there were no casualties among the Japanese troops and that they did not hurt any Iraqi people....

[¶2](#). "During their deployment, the GSDF troops seldom ventured outside their camp into nearby towns. The GSDF each day hired as many as 1,100 Iraqis to help rebuild schools and serve as interpreters. This helped them meet local expectations for jobs and wages while also keeping them from spending long periods of time outside their camp exposed to danger.... The deployment had cost the GOJ 74.3 billion yen by the end of March. If the goal was to have hired local residents to rebuild the area, Japan could have contributed a great deal more by entrusting the same amount of aid to NGOs, which are much more experienced in such undertakings.... We believe the dispatch of SDF personnel to Iraq was flawed from the start. Just because the troops have completed their mission safely does not mean that this should be made

into any kind of precedent. The GOJ should also withdraw Air Self-Defense Force (ASDF) personnel from Iraq as soon as possible.

SCHIEFFER